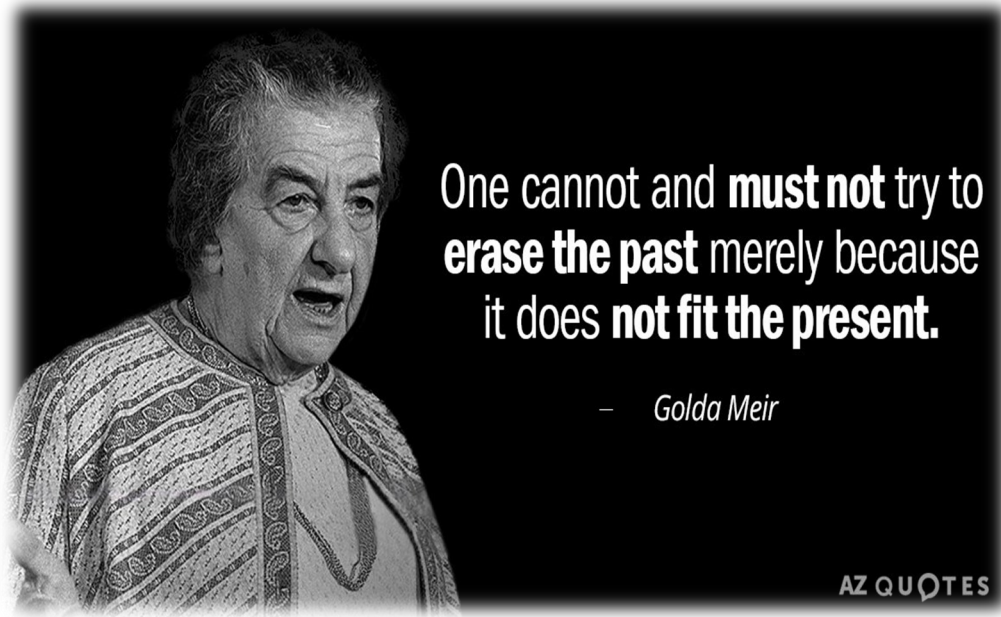


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## Golda Meir

גולדה מאיר



Meir in 1964

### 4th [Prime Minister of Israel](#)

#### In office

17 March 1969 – 3 June 1974

**President** [Zalman Shazar](#)  
[Ephraim Katzir](#)

**Preceded by** [Yigal Allon](#) (interim)

**Succeeded by** [Yitzhak Rabin](#)

### [Leader of Labor Party](#)

#### In office

17 March 1969 – 3 June 1974

**Preceded by** [Levi Eshkol](#)

**Succeeded by** Yitzhak Rabin

### [Minister of Interior](#)

#### In office

16 July 1970 – 1 September 1970

**Prime Minister** *Herself*

<b>Preceded by</b>	<a href="#">Haim-Moshe Shapira</a>
<b>Succeeded by</b>	<a href="#">Yosef Burg</a>
<b><a href="#">Minister of Foreign Affairs</a></b>	
<b>In office</b>	
19 June 1956 – 12 January 1966	
<b>Prime Minister</b>	<a href="#">David Ben-Gurion</a> Levi Eshkol
<b>Preceded by</b>	<a href="#">Moshe Sharett</a>
<b>Succeeded by</b>	<a href="#">Abba Eban</a>
<b><a href="#">Minister of Labor</a></b>	
<b>In office</b>	
10 March 1949 – 19 June 1956	
<b>Prime Minister</b>	<a href="#">David Ben-Gurion</a> Moshe Sharett
<b>Preceded by</b>	<a href="#">Mordechai Bentov</a>
<b>Succeeded by</b>	<a href="#">Mordechai Namir</a>
<b>Member of the <a href="#">Knesset</a></b>	
<b>In office</b>	
12 February 1949 – 3 June 1974	
<b><a href="#">Minister Plenipotentiary to the Soviet Union</a></b>	
<b>In office</b>	
10 September 1948 – 25 January 1949	
<b>Preceded by</b>	<i>Office established</i>
<b>Succeeded by</b>	Mordechai Namir
<b>Personal details</b>	
<b>Born</b>	Golda Mabovitch
	3 May 1898 <a href="#">Kyiv</a> , <a href="#">Russian Empire</a>
<b>Died</b>	8 December 1978 (aged 80) <a href="#">West Jerusalem</a>
<b>Political party</b>	<a href="#">Poale Zion</a> (1915–1919) <a href="#">Ahdut HaAvoda</a> (1919–1930) <a href="#">Mapai</a> (1930–1968) <a href="#">Labor Party</a> (1968–1978)
<b>Other political affiliations</b>	<a href="#">Alignment</a> (1969–1978)
<b>Spouse</b>	Morris Meyerson
	(m. 1917; died 1951)
<b>Children</b>	2
<b><a href="#">Alma mater</a></b>	<a href="#">Milwaukee State Normal School</a>
<b>Signature</b>	

# Golda Meir

May 3, 1898 <<::>> December 8, 1978

Golda Meir served as Israel's first female Prime Minister through the turbulent period of the Yom Kippur War. Meir's passion for Labor Zionism drove her to make Aliyah and join a kibbutz in 1921. She became secretary of Histadut's Mo'etzet ha-Po'alot, the Women Workers Council, and later head of Histadut's political department. In 1949, she was elected to the Knesset and became Minister of Labor before becoming Foreign Minister in 1956 and Prime Minister in 1969. While Israel was able to regain the offensive after the Yom Kippur War, the massive casualties of the war were seen as Meir's failure, and she resigned from office in 1974. However, over time her accomplishments as a stateswoman have been recognized again.

## Background

In the pantheon of illustrious national leaders there exists an even more elite subgroup, female heads of state, among whom stands one Jewish woman: Golda Meir, the Prime Minister of Israel from 1969 to 1974. Pioneer, visionary, risk-taker, indefatigable fundraiser, eloquent advocate, she was an activist of the first order, one of the founders of the Jewish state, a woman whose life story is as central to the mythos of modern Zionism as that of Theodor Herzl, Chaim Weizmann, and David Ben-Gurion. Presidents and kings found her willfulness charming, while her grandmotherly appearance and plain-spoken personal style endeared her to ordinary people around the world. In her time, Golda was as admired as Queen Elizabeth and as well known by her first name as Madonna is today. Yet, for all her accomplishments and fame, Golda Meir—like Indira Gandhi of India and Margaret Thatcher of Great Britain—was no particular friend of women. She was, in current parlance, a “queen bee,” a woman who climbs to the top, then pulls the ladder up behind her. She did not wield the prerogatives of power to address women’s special needs, to promote other women, or to advance women’s status in the public sphere. The fact is that at the end of her tenure her Israeli sisters were no better off than they had been before she took office. That a notable female can be simultaneously an inspiration and a disappointment, a source of great pride and of deep frustration, is the unique contribution of the queen bee to women’s history in general, and of Golda Meir to Jewish women’s history in particular.

## Family and Early Life

Meir was born on May 3, 1898, in Kiev, Ukraine. Her father, Moshe Mabovitch, a skilled carpenter, and her mother, Blume Naidtich, named her for her maternal great-

grandmother, a domineering matriarch who lived to be ninety-four and who always took salt instead of sugar in her tea to remember the bitterness of the Jewish [Diaspora](#). Golda Meir was pleased with this legacy. She identified most, she said, with her “tenacious,” “intransigent” relatives, especially her paternal grandfather, who was kidnapped at age thirteen into the Czar’s army but resisted conversion to Christianity and refused to eat *traif* (nonkosher food). The Mabovitches kept [kosher](#) ([kasher](#)), observed Jewish holidays, and shared traditional Sabbath meals with their extended family—all later lost in the Holocaust. Meir remembered everyone sitting around the table singing Hebrew songs, yet she described growing up in “a not particularly religious household.” She vividly recalled her early childhood as a time of abject poverty and terrifying pogroms, and she attributed her lifelong commitment to Jewish security to her memories of antisemitic violence and the experience of hiding from the Cossacks. She also remembered her sister Sheyna, nine years her senior, risking her life to attend Labor Zionist meetings, and her sister Zipke, the baby, getting the lion’s share of their meager gruel. In 1903, Moshe left for America; three years later, he sent for his family and settled them in a two-room flat in the poor Jewish section of Milwaukee. Golda was eight years old.

On the surface, her life story seems to follow the classic immigrant trajectory toward her rendezvous with destiny. But behind the facts lie years of searing family tensions, conflicts between her goals and others’ expectations of her, and painful inner struggles that might have fueled a feminist consciousness had she not interpreted them as problems unique to her.

At fourteen, Meir graduated from the Fourth Street Elementary School as class valedictorian but had to fight her parents for the right to go to high school. She wanted to be a teacher; they wanted her to find a husband. “It doesn’t pay to be too clever,” warned her father. “Men don’t like smart girls.” Defying him, she enrolled in Milwaukee’s North Division High School and took after-school jobs to pay her expenses. Still, the arguments raged.

Fed up, Meir ran away to live with her sister and brother-in-law in Denver, where she attended school and spent her evenings listening to Shayna’s radical friends—anarchists, Socialist Zionists, and Labor Zionists whose debates helped refine Golda’s political philosophy. She also fell in love with Morris Myerson, a quiet, bespectacled sign-painter who loved poetry and music and exposed her to lectures on literature and history but who never fully shared her Zionist passion. A letter of apology from her parents allowed her to return home after a year, and in 1916 she graduated from high school and registered for a three-year program at the Milwaukee Normal School, a teachers’ training college. Three times a week, she taught children reading, writing, and history at a *folkshule*, a Yiddish school at the Jewish Center of Milwaukee, but her real teaching took place on street corners—much to her father’s distress—where she lectured on Labor Zionism.

## **Immigration to Palestine**

The Women's Organization for the Pioneer Women of Palestine was officially founded in 1925. (It changed its name to Pioneer Women in 1939 and is today called Na'amat.) This early photograph of its leaders includes (L to R, standing): Leah Brown, Goldie Meyerson (Golda Meir), Miriam Meltzer and Nina Zuckerman; (seated): Leah Biskin, Rahel Siegel, Fiegel Berkinblitt. Insert: Chaya Ehrenreich. Institution: Private collection

In November 1917, Britain issued the Balfour Declaration supporting "the establishment in Palestine of a National Home for the Jewish people." A month later, on Christmas Eve, Golda Mabovitch married Morris Myerson on the condition that they would immigrate to Palestine and live on a [kibbutz](#). (A decade before her, the first kibbutz was created by a woman, [Mania Shochat](#).) They chose Merhavyah in the Emek, an area of festering malarial swamps, with, as she put it, "no orchards, no meadows, no flowers, nothing." But when they arrived in 1921, the admission committee rejected them, saying the kibbutz was not ready for married couples. Stunned, they applied again and were granted a probationary residency during which Golda picked almonds and planted saplings, Morris worked the fields, and the kibbutz members became enamored of Morris's phonograph and classical records. This time, they were accepted.

Before long, Meir became a model kibbutznik and such an expert on breeding and feeding chickens that the kibbutz sent her to Haifa for a management course and later chose her as its representative to the Histadrut [General Federation of Labor].

While Golda was flourishing, Morris, who had contracted malaria, felt useless and disconsolate. He flatly refused to have children unless she agreed to rear them in a conventional family setting. After two and a half years ("the happiest of my life"), they left Merhavyah for Jerusalem, where Golda—giving birth to a son, Menachem, in 1924, and a daughter, Sarah, in 1926—valiantly tried to be a traditional wife and mother amid a life of grinding poverty. Morris worked as a bookkeeper for the Histadrut Building Office, which didn't always pay its salaries, and Golda scrimped and bartered to make ends meet. In exchange for Menachem's nursery school fees, she did the school's laundry by hand, not minding the work but longing for labor with a Zionist purpose and desperate for meaningful community. Now it was her turn to feel useless and disconsolate.

One day in 1928, she ran into an old friend, David Remez, who offered her the job of secretary of Histadrut's Mo'ezet ha-Po'alot, Women Workers Council. Knowing Morris would never approve, she nonetheless took the job and moved to Tel Aviv with her children and her sister. Morris visited on weekends but, in essence, their marriage was over. The separation became final ten years later—though they were never legally divorced—yet until Morris's death in 1951, Golda would continue to feel guilty "because I couldn't be the wife he wanted and should have had." She would also worry that she had not done enough for her children. "I was always rushing from one place to another—to work, home, to a meeting, to take Menachem to a music lesson, to keep a doctor's appointment with Sarah, to shop, to cook, to work and back home again. And still to this day," she wrote at age seventy-seven, "I am not sure that I didn't harm the children or neglect them." At the same time, she acknowledged, "There is a type of woman who cannot let her husband and children narrow her horizons."

## Establishment of Israel

Moving quickly up the ranks, Meir became a member of the Executive Committee of the Histadrut in 1934 and head of its political department two years later. During World War II, she held several key posts in the World Zionist Organization and in the Jewish Agency, the highest Jewish authority in British-administered Palestine, which functioned as the government of the *Yishuv* (Jewish settlement). When the male leadership was arrested for smuggling in refugees, she served as acting head of the agency, and until the end of the mandate she was its spokesperson in dealings with the British.

With the establishment of the State of Israel in 1948, it became clear that armed confrontation with the Arabs was inevitable. A vast amount of money was needed to equip the armed forces. Because she spoke perfect English, Meir volunteered to go to the United States to solicit twenty-five million dollars from the American Jewish community. Where others had tried and failed, she succeeded in communicating both a compelling urgency and a sense of shared mission. She raised not twenty-five but fifty million dollars.

Her courage took many forms. In May 1948, with five Arab armies massed on Israel's borders, Meir disguised herself as a Muslim woman and crossed into Trans-Jordan for a secret meeting with King Abdullah, to try to persuade him to stay out of the war. Abdullah, King Hussein's congenial grandfather, with whom she had already had two clandestine encounters, received her with respect but remained unresponsive to her pleas.

When Israel was just four days old and in the thick of battle, Meir returned to the United States to do more fundraising for the war effort. A month later, Foreign Minister Moshe Sharett appointed her ambassador to the USSR—sweet revenge for the little girl once menaced by the Cossacks and a profound thrill for Soviet Jews who, at great peril to themselves, thronged the Moscow synagogue on Rosh Hashanah to greet her. In 1949, she was elected to the *Knesset* (Israeli parliament) and appointed by Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion to be the Minister of Labor, in charge of finding jobs and housing for the nearly seven hundred thousand immigrants who streamed into the country between May 1948 and the end of 1951.

## Foreign Minister

Meir held the Labor portfolio for seven years. She said she would have liked to keep it forever, but in 1956, Ben-Gurion made her Foreign Minister, the second-highest position in the government. He also insisted she adopt a Hebrew-sounding surname to better represent her Hebrew-speaking nation; thus did Myerson become Meir.

The only female foreign minister in the world, Golda Meir was also the only foreign minister who had no use for formalities, who flew tourist class, who shocked hotel staffs by handwashing her own underwear and shining her own shoes, and who entertained foreign dignitaries in her kitchen, in an apron, serving them her homemade pastry along with a stern lecture on Israel's security. She also was a foreign minister who refused to

obey the color line in Rhodesia, inspiring a full complement of dignitaries to follow suit, and whose proudest accomplishment was the export of Israeli technical and agricultural expertise to the African nations.

In 1966, she decided to retire from government; Abba Eban would take over her post. She was sixty-eight years old, ready to become a full-time grandmother, eager to do more reading, listen to music, bake, visit friends, slow down. A year earlier, she had been diagnosed with lymphoma, a condition she insisted upon keeping secret and for which she was treated at Hadassah Hospital in the dead of night.

## **Prime Minister**

Although Meir considered her public career at an end, she was persuaded to become secretary general of Mapai, her political party, and, in 1967, secretary of the unified Labor Party. Then suddenly, in February 1969, Prime Minister Levi Eshkol died of a heart attack and, to avoid a power struggle between Moshe Dayan and Yigal Allon, the party prevailed upon her to become Israel's leader. Retirement would have to wait.

Meir might have enjoyed more than four years in power had not Egypt and Syria launched a surprise attack on October 6, 1973, to start the [Yom Kippur War](#). Though Israeli forces were able to regain the offensive, they suffered more than twenty-seven hundred casualties, a profound blow to a small country, and especially to Jews, who measure their collective survival one life at a time. Until the day she died, Meir regretted that she had not followed her instincts to call up the reserves days earlier rather than heeding the advice of military intelligence experts who saw no reason to mobilize. Gripped by a kind of national trauma, the public turned against her; parents of the dead shouted at her in the streets and blamed her and Defense Minister Dayan for the devastating losses. Although the Labor Party won the election of December 1973, Golda Meir was unable to form a government. She resigned on April 10, 1974, and on June 3, officially turned over the premiership to Yitzhak Rabin.

## **Impact**

For all her grief and remorse over the Yom Kippur War, for all the humiliation and pain of her people's rejection of her, she was nonetheless able in her final years to evolve into an elder statesman and beloved public citizen, a woman whom bus drivers insisted on taking to her front door and whom organizations clamored to honor. In time, her image regained its luster, and her reputation as a philosopher-comedian entered the realm of legend.

As a politician and Jewish nationalist, Meir was consistent, strong in her resolve, and undisturbed by nuance or self-doubts. The Zionist cause to her was a moral, historical, and political imperative. Though she was eager to make peace with "the Arabs," and often begged for Arab recognition and Arab partners, her refusal to acknowledge the existence of "Palestinians" or, consequently, Palestinian suffering, was for many years a stumbling block to progress.

As a woman, on the other hand, Meir was a study in contradictions. Though her public persona was almost neuter, she was reputed to have had many lovers for many years. Foremost among them were David Remez, Israel's Minister of Transport and then of Education, and by some accounts the true passion of her life; and Zalman Shazar, one of the preeminent architects of the Jewish state and eventually its president. Though she exhibited stereotypically feminine attributes—the cooking, the warmth and emotionality, the matronly appearance—those who knew her never fail to mention her toughness.

"To survive Israeli politics she had to become tough, she had no choice; she must have gone through hell to get where she did," says M.K. Colette Avital, who began her career in Israel's foreign ministry under Meir's tenure and became one of her nation's top-ranking foreign service officers. Avital remembers her old boss as someone who could be rigid and hot-tempered, someone who "disliked women, never really helped women."

Jew, Zionist, Israeli—these were the identities that defined Golda Meir's life and galvanized her loyalties while the female aspect of her being remained devoid of consciousness or commitment. ("Whether women are better than men I cannot say," she once wrote, "but I can say they are certainly no worse.") While she was voted the Most Admired Woman in America during the 1970s, simultaneously serving as feminism's poster girl—the face above the caption "But Can She Type?"—the reality was far more complex. She acknowledged the important role women played in the founding of the State of Israel but was unwilling to bond in solidarity with her sex. Rather than recognize in her life experience the untenable pressures that plague virtually all achieving women, she attributed her strains and sacrifices to her private feminine or maternal failures, faulting her own aspirations, her love of political work, and her burning ambitions for the Jewish state. As Prime Minister, she did not focus on child care policy or concern herself with the problems of working women or use her influence to argue for equal gender arrangements in the home or encourage more women to run for public office. The conflicts that tore her apart helped her to sympathize passively with the "heavy double burden" of working mothers but did not inspire her to politicize that sympathy and identify with feminist goals. In fact, she seemed to go out of her way to criticize feminism and distort the tenets of the women's movement. She did, however, have her epiphanic moments. When Israel was experiencing an epidemic of violent rapes and someone at a cabinet meeting suggested women be put under curfew until the rapists were caught, Meir shot back, "Men are committing the rapes. Let them be put under curfew."

When Ben-Gurion first made her a minister in his cabinet, the religious bloc objected to the idea of a woman ruling over men, though they finally acquiesced on the grounds that Deborah, the biblical judge, had been acceptable to God. However, when Meir was a candidate for mayor of Tel Aviv, the religious objections defeated her, to her everlasting fury. When Ben-Gurion described her as "the only man" in his cabinet, Golda was amused that he thought "this was the greatest possible compliment that could be paid to a woman. I very much doubt that any man would have been flattered if I had said about him that he was the only woman in the government!" She noticed the disparity but seemed to miss the larger point. She once said in a speech to the UN that the world might be better off if political leaders allowed themselves to "feel more and think less."

Yet she did not deduce that having more women in power might add the missing component to public life.

Just as some Jews choose not to be Jewish-identified because they think they have the option to behave as if peoplehood doesn't matter, Golda Meir chose not to be woman-identified and behaved as if gender doesn't matter. But, of course, when one is Jewish and female, both facts matter.

She died on December 8, 1978, at age eighty, a titan of modern Zionism, a history-making national leader, one of the most accomplished women of the twentieth century—still feeling guilty about falling short as a wife and mother.

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## A Chronological Survey

<https://www.msudenver.edu/golda-meir-center/golda-meir/chronology/>

### Author

Norman Provizer, Director of the Golda Meir Center for Political Leadership at Metropolitan State College of Denver, and Claire Wright, Research Assistant.

70-year-old Golda Meir became the third woman in the 20th Century to emerge as a leader of a nation. And, unlike the women who preceded her, the Russian-born/American-bred Meir gained her position as Israel's Prime Minister without the benefit of family ties to a famous father or an assassinated husband. Beyond that, Meir was also twice an immigrant to new lands. A fact that continually reminds us that leadership often emerges from the most unlikely places. Her extraordinary life

was not without pain or controversy. But it was extraordinary. The following represents a comprehensive outline of that life, arranged in chronological fashion.

1898

Meir is born Goldie Mabovitch on May 3, 1898 in Kiev, Ukraine (then part of Russia). She is one of eight children born to Moshe and Blume Mabovitch (or Mabowitz), five of whom (four boys and a girl) died in infancy. She is the middle child of the three surviving girls. Sheyna (or Shana) is the eldest and Zipke (later known as Clara) is the youngest. Her father is a carpenter/cabinet-maker and Golda is named for her maternal great-grandmother Golde who was known for her strong will and stubbornness. Early in life she witnesses the endemic anti-Jewish violence in Czarist Russia (the pogroms). The image of that anti-Semitism would remain with her and greatly influence the course of her life.

**1898:** Meir is born Goldie Mabovitch on May 3, 1898 in Kiev, Ukraine (then part of Russia). She is one of eight children born to Moshe and Blume Mabovitch (or Mabowitz), five of whom (four boys and a girl) died in infancy. She is the middle child of the three surviving girls. Sheyna (or Shana) is the eldest and Zipke (later known as Clara) is the youngest. Her father is a carpenter/cabinet-maker and Golda is named for her maternal great-grandmother Golde who was known for her strong will and stubbornness. Early in life she witnesses the endemic anti-Jewish violence in Czarist Russia (the pogroms). The image of that anti-Semitism would remain with her and greatly influence the course of her life.

**1903:** Golda and the family move to Pinsk (in what is now Belarus), her mother's original home. That year, a severe pogrom leads many Jewish communities in Russia to declare a fast in protest. Though not quite five, Golda insists on participating in the fast despite her family's objections based on her age. Moshe Mabovitch departs for the United States and settles in Milwaukee. The plan is for him to send for his family once he is established in America.

**1906:** She leaves Russia, with her mother and sisters, to join her father in America. They land in Quebec, Canada and then travel by train to Milwaukee. Because her father had helped a friend reach America by pretending that the friend's wife and daughters were his, the rest of the Mabovitch family now has to use false names to depart.

**1908:** While in the fourth grade, Golda and her close friend Regina Hamburger form the American Young Sisters Society to raise money to buy textbooks for students who could not afford them. Their activities include a fundraising effort in a large, rented hall at which Golda speaks.

**1912:** She begins North Division High School after graduating from the Fourth Street School (now the Golda Meir School) as class valedictorian (despite her frequent tardiness due to working in her mother's store). Though Golda is excited over high school and the idea of becoming a teacher, her parents are less than thrilled over these developments. After all, teachers in Wisconsin, at the time, could not be married. So Golda plans to runaway from home (and her parents' talk of her getting married) to stay with her sister Sheyna, who is in Denver for her tuberculosis.

**1913:** After making her plans, 14-year-old Golda steals out of her house and takes a train to Denver in February. She moves in with her sister, her sister's husband (Shamai Korngold) and their child (Judith) who live in a small duplex located in West Denver and enrolls at North High School on February 17. She listens to the heated debates that take place among visitors to the Korngold kitchen on a variety of topics ranging from Yiddish literature, Zionism, anarchism and socialism to women's suffrage, trade unionism and dialectical materialism. In her autobiography Golda writes, "to the extent that my own future convictions were shaped and given form, and ideas were discarded or accepted by me while I was growing up, those talk-filled nights in Denver played a considerable role." In a different context, she put it this way, "Denver was a turning point because my real education began. In Denver, life really opened up for me." As part of her life opening up in Denver, Golda meets and dates Morris Myerson (or Meyerson) who has passion for the arts, music and Golda.

**1914:** Golda ends her stay at North High School on June 5. Disagreements with her sister lead her to move out on her own and to work. She then reconciles with her parents and plans her return to Milwaukee, though Morris talks of marriage.

**1915:** Golda is back at North Division High School in Milwaukee and graduates the next year.

**1916:** After finishing North Division High School, Golda attends Wisconsin State Normal School in Milwaukee with the idea of pursuing a teaching career. While she is vice-president of her class, Goldie Mabowehz (as she is then known) attends the teacher-training institution just for one year. She teaches at a Yiddish school in Milwaukee, organizes protest marches and joins the Poalei Zion (Labor Zionists) organization.

**1917:** On July 9, Golda's father Moshe becomes an American citizen (the name on the documents is Morris Mabowehz). Under the law in effect, children, who were under 21, received derivative citizenship or citizenship by descent. On December 24, Golda marries Morris Myerson in her parents' home. Right after the marriage she travels extensively for Poalei Zion, including stays in Chicago and a trip to Canada. Interestingly, given the derivative citizenship idea, she points out that when trying to go to Canada there was a problem because she had no passport. "Morris wasn't an American citizen yet," she writes in her autobiography, "and married women couldn't take out their own citizenship then. My father's passport would have helped, but he was still angry with me for going and refused to send it to me." Details on this matter remain in question.

**1918:** Golda attends the first convention of the American Jewish Congress. She travels to the Philadelphia meeting as a delegate from Milwaukee. She is the youngest of the delegates there and considers the meeting the start of her political career.

**1921:** Though Morris is not enthusiastic about leaving America for Palestine, Golda is adamant on this point. After four years of saving for the venture, the Myersons, along with Golda's sister Sheyna (and her daughter), her old friend Regina and others depart New York on the SS Pocahontas for Naples and then on, by ship and train, to Tel Aviv. It is a difficult journey. She is once again an immigrant. And, after fighting her initial rejection (because she was married and an American), Golda is accepted as a member of Kibbutz Merhavia. She and Morris move to the kibbutz to fulfill Golda's dream. Though Golda expresses the view that she would be happy to remain on the kibbutz for the rest of her life, Morris does not share this sentiment. They leave after three years. But during her stay, Golda becomes an active member in kibbutz affairs beyond Merhavia.

**1924:** The Myerson's first child, Menahem, is born in Tel Aviv. The family moves to Jerusalem.

**1925:** Golda spends a brief period back at Merhavia with her son.

**1926:** Golda's parents move from the U.S. to Israel and her daughter Sara (or Sarah) is born in Jerusalem.

**1928:** She becomes Secretary of the Women's Labor Council at the suggestion of David Remez. It is her first public position. Her move back to Tel Aviv, with the children, marks her separation from Morris who remains in Jerusalem and comes to Tel Aviv on weekends. Though they are never divorced and continue to have close ties, they are very different people now following very different paths. Remez continues to be one of the men closely connected to Golda. She never discusses such relationships publicly. But she does discuss her guilt over the time spent away from her children as she emerges as an increasingly public figure, frequently traveling abroad.

**1930:** Golda is one of the founders of Mapai (the Labor Party of the Land of Israel).

**1932:** She returns to the United States for an extended period with her children in order to get expert medical treatment for Sarah's kidney illness and travels extensively for the Pioneer Women's Organization of America speaking and fund raising.

**1934:** After returning to Palestine, she is elected to the Executive Committee of Histadrut (the General Federation of Jewish Labor).

**1938:** Golda is named the "Jewish observer from Palestine" to the International Conference on Refugees in Evian-les-Bains, France. She is disappointed with the conference and tells the press at the end, "There is only one thing I hope to see before I die and that is that my people should not need expressions of sympathy anymore." Despite raising persecution in Europe, the British, the following year, essentially close Palestine to Jewish immigration.

**1940:** Though Golda and Morris remain married, the formal break in their marriage occurs. She becomes head of Histadrut's Political Department and actively involves herself in the struggle against restrictive British policy respecting Jewish immigration to Palestine.

**1943:** The testimony she gives as a witness at the Sirkin-Richlin arms trial conducted by the British adds to her growing reputation.

**1944:** U.S. Immigration and Naturalization documents state that her father Moshe (Morris) passes away, though Golda's autobiography gives the year of his death as 1946.

**1946:** Golda is appointed acting head of the Jewish Agency's Political Department (when male leaders of the Jewish community are rounded up). She is then named head of that department. The Jewish Agency was the de facto "government" of the Jewish community in Palestine. At this time, refugees headed to Palestine are detained aboard two ships in Italy. They begin a hunger strike. Golda suggests that leaders of the community in Palestine do the same. Though she has recently been in the hospital from a gall-bladder attack, Golda insist on being one of those conducting the public fast. Throughout her

career, she has a number of serious medical conditions that she deals with quietly while carrying on with her duties.

**1947:** She travels to Cyprus with the unenviable task of convincing detained refugees to give first priority to families with children to fill the small quota of Jewish immigrants allowed into Palestine. Golda largely succeeds in this. The United Nations votes to partition Palestine into an Arab state and a Jewish state and Golda has her first secret meeting with King Abdullah of Jordan.

**1948:** Golda, again, meets secretly with King Abdullah. She travels to the early May meeting in Amman, Jordan through hostile territory in Arab dress. When Abdullah suggests that there is no hurry to proclaim the state of Israel, she answers, "We have been waiting for 2,000 years. Is that hurrying?" Conflict between Arabs and Jews continues and, on May 14, Israel's independence is declared. The ceremony takes place in the Tel Aviv Art Museum and Golda Myerson is one of those signing the document. She travels again to America to raise funds. Golda is enormously successful generating pledges of some \$50 million. Her talk in Chicago is often referred to as "the speech that made possible a Jewish state." David Ben-Gurion, Israel's first leader, would comment that when the history of Israel is written it will say, "there was a Jewish woman who got the money to make the state possible." While in New York, Golda's taxi is in an accident and she emerges with a badly fractured leg. Golda also arrives in Moscow as Israel's first minister to the Soviet Union. While she receives much acclaim, she is not happy about leaving Israel at this time. But she writes, "One's duty was one duty – and it had nothing to do with justice." This idea of duty is a constant theme throughout her life. When she gets a passport from now independent Israel, according to several sources, she turns back her American passport. She, however, never turns her back on her positive experience with American democracy and freedom.

**1949:** Golda is elected to the first Knesset (Israel's Parliament) from the Mapai party which organizes the government. Prime Minister Ben-Gurion invites her to be Deputy Prime Minister. She declines and is named Minister of Labor. Despite her qualifications, there are members of the religious block who are not happy with the appointment of a woman to the position. As Labor Minister, she creates large infrastructure projects (including housing) to deal with the absorption of the vast number of new immigrants to Israel. She is also involved in initiating social legislation such as the National Insurance Act.

**1951:** Her husband Morris dies of a heart attack in Golda's Tel Aviv apartment while she is out of the country. She flies back for the funeral. Her mother Blume (or Bluma) also passes away.

**1955:** She is asked by Ben-Gurion to run for mayor of Tel Aviv. Though reluctant, she takes on the task. She does not receive a majority vote from the city council. Her selection depended on the votes of two men from the religious block and one of them simply refused to support a woman. Golda (who is not particularly religious) continues as Minister of Labor until 1956. Also, Pinchas Lavon resigns as Israel's Defence Minister. The entire Lavon Affair, which starts in 1954 and resurfaces in 1960, has a major impact on Israeli politics and adds to the existing strains between Golda and her mentor Ben-Gurion. Prior to this, Golda looked at Ben-Gurion as a hero. After this and Ben-Gurion's 1965 split from the Labor party, she has anger over the wounds he causes though still admiring his great achievements.

**1956:** In line with the idea that Israeli leaders should Hebraicize their names, Golda becomes Golda Meir (which means to illuminate or to burn brightly) rather than Golda Myerson. Since she also spelled her name Meirson, she drops the last part of the name to produce Meir. On her grave, her name in English is given as Golda Meir (Meirson). While the pronunciation of her new name is May-ear many American refer to her as My-ear. She is named to be Israel's Foreign Minister. She occupies that position during the 1956 Suez crisis (taking charge of the Israeli delegation at the United Nations during debates over Suez) and serves until 1966. Prior to the outbreak of the Suez conflict, she secretly flies to France and is involved in planning the operation. During her tenure as Foreign Minister, Golda greatly expands Israel's contact with Third World countries especially the sub-Saharan African states with which she believes Jews shared "the memory of centuries of suffering." Throughout her life, she is particularly proud of her efforts in building these relationships and providing highly effective assistance programs.

**1960:** When Argentina complains to the Security Council of the United Nations that Israel violated its sovereignty when it captured Adolph Eichmann on its territory and brought him to Israel for trial, Golda addresses the Council with a powerful speech on the Holocaust. The Council decides that an expression of regret by Israel is sufficient and endorses the idea of bringing the wanted Nazi to trial.

**1963:** She is diagnosed with cancer (lymphoma).

**1965:** Expressing the need "to recharge" her emotional batteries and facing on-going health problems, Golda says she is ready to retire and leave the government. She declines Prime Minister Levi Eshkol's offer to become Deputy Prime Minister.

**1966:** Though retaining her seat in the Knesset, Golda leaves her position as Foreign Minister. Her retirement, however, is short lived. She becomes the Secretary-General of her party, Mapai, in order to help bring the various fragments of the Labor movement together in a unified Labor party alliance/alignment. "It was the one appeal," she writes, "that I couldn't turn down."

**1967:** The Six-Day War takes place in June. Golda is not in the government at the time and the war shatters the relationships she had developed with African and other Third World nations.

**1968:** She leaves her position as party Secretary-General and the military exchanges with Egypt across the Suez, called the War of Attrition, begin.

**1969:** Early in the year, Prime Minister Levi Eshkol dies. There is serious disagreement over his successor. Given the struggle between Yigal Allon and Moshe Dayan for the position, Golda is seen as the only person who can hold things together. Faced with the view that "Golda must come back," she accepts the nomination for the post by the central committee of her party on March 7 and becomes Prime Minister on March 17, seven weeks before her 71st birthday. She is the fourth person to hold the position and she remains in office for just over five years. Her early years are marked by enormously high approval ratings.

**1970:** A cease-fire takes place in the War of Attrition with Egypt. Golda also begins a series of meeting with King Hussein of Jordan. A little later, there is talk as well of a meeting with President Sadat of Egypt, but nothing materializes. A terrorist attack on a school bus near Avivim leads to the death of nine children and three adults.

**1971:** She becomes only the second woman from outside the U.S. to be at the top of the list of the most admired woman in America compiled by the Gallup poll. She repeats this achievement in 1973 and 1974.

**1972:** Golda is elected Deputy Chairman of the worldwide Socialist International; and, as Prime Minister, she faces the September massacre of 11 Israeli athletes during the Munich Olympics. After considering alternative responses, she orders the creation of assassination teams to hunt down the perpetrators who belong to the Black September movement. The effort creates its own controversies. Before the Munich attack, terrorists also kill 27 people at Lod Airport in Tel Aviv. Her older sister Sheyna, who was such an influence on Golda, dies.

**1973:** She announces that she will retire in October following the elections. She says in an interview, "Once they're over, goodbye." But on October 6, the Yom Kippur War begins. Change is put aside. The war has an enormous impact on Golda. On the one hand, she could never quite forgive herself for not listening to her heart (her intuition) concerning a possible attack. She was, however, informed by military and intelligence sources that no attack was imminent. Though hesitant, she listens to that advice. Once it was clear that an attack would take place almost immediately, she supports significant mobilization while, at the same time, resisting the idea of attacking first. During the conflict, Golda also used great skill in generating desperately needed arms shipments from the U.S. Though her government appears to have discussed the possible use of nuclear weapons during the worst moments of the war, Golda, herself, was not one to panic, as were some others around her. Her determination, composure, strength and common sense proved valuable in the end. The Arab oil embargo follows the conflict. After the war, the Agranat Commission (set up to investigate Israel's lack of preparedness) praised her conduct during the fight. One Commission member was impressed because "she carried the full burden. There was no attempt to shove responsibility onto someone else. She answered every one of our questions in dignity...It was Golda at her toughest, not stooping." But the damage had been done. Earlier in the year, before the war, Golda was flying to Italy when Israeli agents discovered and stopped (virtually at the last minute) an effort to bring down her plane with surface-to-air missiles. Additionally, her cancer spreads and Golda has an intensive radiation-treatment schedule that she keeps secret while she carries on her duties. And she is named the most admired woman in England. At the end of the year, the delayed elections take place.

**1974:** The controversy over the war continues; and, while Golda is returned to office, she struggles to form a government and is ready to move back to private life. On April 10, she tells party leaders she has had enough. She stays on, heading a caretaker government, until leaving office on June 4. She also ends her 25-year stay in the Knesset. Before Golda leaves office, a terrorist attack on a school in Ma'alot kills 21 children, while another attack at Kiryat Shmona kills 19 people including nine children.

**1975:** Golda, now a private citizen, publishes her autobiography *My Life*. During negotiations with British publisher George Weidenfeld, she says, "I will not write about my private life. I will not settle political or other scores with anyone. I will not take advantage of the high office have just left, or of anything I learned there." While the book remained well within those guidelines, it still became an international best seller. Rinna Samuels works with her on writing the book. And, according to publisher Weidenfeld, during the process of producing the book Golda would say, "I need this book like a hole in my head. I hate indiscretion. I hate memoirs."

**1977:** The play Golda by William Gibson opens on Broadway at the Morosco Theater with Ann Bancroft playing Golda Meir. Golda attends the play and is not overly happy with the results. While in America, she is called back to be in Jerusalem for Egyptian President Anwar Sadat historic visit. Later, Sadat would say he preferred to deal with Golda. In his words, "The Old Lady. She has guts, really."

**1978:** She is hospitalized in Jerusalem's Hadassah-Hebrew University Medical Center's Hematology Ward and falls into a coma on December 7. On December 8, Golda Meir dies at 4:30 p.m. On December 12, she is buried at Mount Herzl National Cemetery in Jerusalem. There are numerous tributes to her from across the globe. Yet, as much as anything said, Italian journalist Oriana Fallaci's words, written after a 1972 interview with Golda, ring true. While not at all pro-Israel in her sentiments, the journalist writes "even if one is not at all in agreement with her, with her politics, her ideology, one cannot help but respect her, admire her, even love her." A decade earlier, in the Foreword to a book of Golda's papers, Eleanor Roosevelt also described Meir as "a woman one cannot help but deeply respect and deeply love." Such was the nature of her unique life.

**1981:** Golda's younger sister Clara (Stern) dies.

**1982:** Ingrid Bergman plays Golda in a two-part, four-hour television movie by Paramount Pictures titled A Woman Called Golda. Leonard Nimoy plays her husband Morris and Judy Davis plays Golda as a young woman.

**2001:** Renee Taylor, playing the role of Golda, begins a one-woman touring show called An Evening with Golda Meir.

**2002:** William Gibson's new play Golda's Balcony is performed in Massachusetts. Unlike his earlier work, this has only one person on stage. Annette Miller plays Golda. 2003: Golda's Balcony opens in New York with Tovah Feldshuh as Golda Meir. Following a highly acclaimed run off-Broadway, the play moves to the Helen Hayes Theater on Broadway.

For additional discussions of Golda Meir, you can also see other articles on the Center's website ([www.goldameircenter.org](http://www.goldameircenter.org)) by Norman Provizer. The first is "In the Shadow of Washington: Golda Meir, Duty and the Call to Power" (which also appears in Kevin Cope, editor, George Washington In and As Culture, New York: AMS Press, 2001). The second is "The Return of Golda Meir" (published as "Golda Meir 25 Years Later: Unique on Stage, Unique in Life" in the May 16, 2003 issue of the Intermountain Jewish News). The Golda Meir Center for Political Leadership will continue to provide additional articles and information about Meir's leadership, including debates concerning her policies on Arab-Israeli relations and the Palestinians, as well as domestic Israeli affairs and gender issues.

Golda often spoke, after all, with deep conviction about the need for peace, while pursuing hard-line policies based on commonly held perceptions of security. She could be intransigent and compromising, hard-nosed and prudent. And, while clearly shaped by ideas, she could tell a friend in 1948, "The thing that mattered most in my life was that if a thing has to be done, you don't waste time with theories and debates. You just do it." Those words were spoken decades before Nike commercials were born.

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**Golda Meir House Museum**  
<https://www.ahec.edu/auraria/golda-meir-house>

Golda Meir was the Prime Minister of Israel from 1969–1974. She was Israel's first female prime minister and the third female prime minister in the world. Meir was inducted into the Colorado Women's Hall of Fame in [1985](#). She was one of the Twentieth Century's most influential women, a powerful international leader and diplomat who enormously impacted the course of history.



Golda Meir was born Goldie Mabovitch in Kiev, Russia, on May 3, 1898. In 1906, Golda and her family fled to the United States to escape religious persecution along with thousands of other Russian Jews. The family settled in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Meir was a brilliant student who showed her humanitarian instincts by age 11 when she organized an elaborate fundraising effort to collect money so that poor children could buy school books. As a teenager she decided she wanted to go on to high school and become a teacher, however her parents had already chosen a husband. Married women were not allowed to teach in Milwaukee at that time. In 1913, she ran away from home to pursue her education in Denver, Colorado.

She moved in with her sister Shayna, niece Judith, and brother-in-law Sam Korngold in their modest brick duplex at 1606-1608 Julian Street in Denver. It was less than a mile from the present Auraria Campus. Meir attended North High School for nearly two years. During that time she worked part-time as a presser for her brother-in-law at Korngold's Cleaning and Pressing Works, near the Brown Palace Hotel.

The Korngold house was considered a social and intellectual haven by many Jewish immigrants from Russia. Most of them had travelled out West for treatment at Denver's famous Jewish Hospital for Consumptives (Jewish Consumptive Relief Society and National Jewish Hospital). They were either ill or had recently recovered from tuberculosis. Meir would discuss politics and serve them tea at the house. It was here she met her future husband Morris Meyerson and began to develop her political philosophy. She also became deeply involved with Zionism and eventually decided to emigrate to Israel.



**Future Israeli prime minister Golda Meir (center) stands with her sister and brother-in-law, Shana and Sam Korngold, and their daughter, Judith. The formal portrait was taken in Denver, Colorado.**



The Golda Meir House Museum on the Auraria Campus is her only known U.S. residence, a standing tribute to her commitment to freedom, peace, and human dignity. The museum celebrates a theme inspired by Golda's life – the story of a woman who came from a low-income, ethnic environment but whose perseverance, ideals and dedication changed the world. The house was relocated to the Auraria Campus from its original

location in northwest Denver. Today, the 1606-side of the duplex serves as the Golda Meir House Museum. The adjoining side of the duplex currently serves as a conference room that can be reserved through Auraria Campus Event Services (ACES). The living room and bedroom are exhibit spaces, and the bathroom and kitchen are consistent with how they would have looked when Meir lived there. Original artifacts on display include:

- A mezuzah or parchment inscribed with religious texts typically attached in a case to the doorpost of a Jewish home as a sign of faith
- A bank statement from Sam Korngold's business
- A pushke or little container used to save money to be donated to charity
- A health department notice framed in the bathroom was found on the 1608 side of the house, imploring residents to "bury your dead chickens and stop throwing them in the alley"
- Original bath tub
- A square oak kitchen table manufactured locally by the Denver Furniture and Carpet Company
- A feather duster handmade in Colorado by the Capitol Brush factory
- A kitchen stove on loan to the museum from the Colorado State Historical Society



**Golda Meir House at its original location, 1606-1608 Julian Street, Denver.**

In 1981, the tiny duplex at 1606-1608 Julian Street was first identified as the Denver home of Golda Meir. The house was inches away from demolition. An intense effort by a small group of concerned citizens including the late Mel Cohen and his wife Esther temporarily saved the structure, which narrowly escaped fire, a tornado, vandalism and repeated demolition attempts by the city. The house was moved twice before being relocated by the Auraria Foundation to the Auraria Campus in September 1988.

The Golda Meir House was designated a Denver landmark in 1995, and a total restoration was accomplished through private contributions and a grant from the Colorado Historical Fund.

## GMHM Mezuzah



CU Denver College of Arts and Media Visual Arts and sculpture professor Rian Kerrane created the new mezuzah for the Golda Meir House Museum. Kerrane is originally from Ireland. A noted sculptor in cast iron, mixed media, and installation, she has shown her work in sculpture gardens, museums, and galleries in the United States, Ireland, Italy, Austria, and Mexico.



Kerrane entitled the mezuzah "Fluid Units," using cast bronze and steel to create the piece. She says, "the vantage point of not belonging to my home nor my adopted land fuels my visual language, which manifests in sculpture, installation, performance, and print. The design of the mezuzah is that of a vessel one might use for science experiments."

In her autobiography *My Life*, Golda Meir expresses the significance of time in Denver,

*"My own future convictions were shaped and given form, and ideas were discarded or accepted by me while I was growing, those talk-filled nights in Denver played a considerable role."*



**Golda Mabovitch, before 1910**



**Golda Mabovitch in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, 1914**



**Golda Meir in the fields at Kibbutz Merhaviah (1920s)**



**Golda Meir in Haifa, 1947**



**Meir surrounded by crowd of 50,000 Jews near Moscow Choral Synagogue on the first day of Rosh Hashanah in 1948. This image later appeared on the 1984 10,000-shekel banknote.**



**Golda Meir and Eva Perón in Argentina, 1951.**



**Golda Meir at first session of the third government (1951)**



Meir with U.S. President John F. Kennedy,  
27 December 1962.



Villa Harun Al Rashid, in Talbiya,  
built in 1926 by a Palestinian, Hanna  
Bisharat, confiscated by the Israelis  
after 1948, and becoming Meir's  
residence during the 1960s



PM Golda Meir in Tel Aviv, July, 1969



Meir (center) with Pat and  
President Richard Nixon in  
Washington, DC, in 1973.



US President Richard Nixon and Israeli Prime Minister Golda Meir meeting on March 1,  
1973, in the Oval Office. Nixon's National Security Advisor Henry Kissinger is on the  
right.



Meir with children of Kibbutz Shfayim,  
1950



Golda Meir's grave on Mount Herzl



**Golda Meir Memorial Plaque on the building where she was born (5-A Baseina Street, Kyiv)**



**Facade of the Golda Meir Center for the Performing Arts – home to the Israeli Opera and the Cameri Theater, Tel Aviv**



**Golda Meir Square in Manhattan**



**Israeli 10 New Sheqalim Banknote commemorating Golda Meir**

**Kindly visit these Web Links to see the Videos**

- 01] From the Archives: Israeli Prime Minister Golda Meri on "Face the Nation," October 1973  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C2cKWYw2IDU> [51:07]
- 02] Golda Meir - Matriarch of Israel Documentary  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1-MtV-vX7H0> [1:17:06:]
- 03] Golda Meir: The Girl from Milwaukee who Became Prime Minister  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oVslEa67\\_j4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oVslEa67_j4) [11:27]
- 04] RR7020 GOLDA MEIR INTERVIEW  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jfF7z8ZDezo> [22:29]
- 05] Lioness: The Iconic Life of Golda Meir  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r8SU1laxv10> [1:08:40]
- 06] 'Golda,' the Movie (Movies We Can Learn From)  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vz15MaqXt6s> [37:36]
- 07] GOLDA Q&A interview Helen Mirren & director Guy Nattiv at Museum of Tolerance in Los Angeles / Golda  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qG1\\_6CPb9u4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qG1_6CPb9u4) [23:02]
- 08] Film Review: Golda  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6M-KPxoenVI> [24:08]

# Israeli–Palestinian conflict

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Israeli%E2%80%93Palestinian\\_conflict](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Israeli%E2%80%93Palestinian_conflict)

## Israeli–Palestinian Conflict

Part of the [Arab–Israeli conflict](#)



Situation in the [Israeli-occupied territories](#), as of December 2011, per the [United Nations OCHA](#). See [here](#) for a more detailed and updated map.

<b>Date</b>	Late 19th / early 20th century – present
<b>Location</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Israel</li> <li><a href="#">Occupied Palestinian territories</a></li> </ul>
<b>Status</b>	Ongoing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">Israeli–Palestinian peace process</a> (halted)</li> <li><a href="#">Gaza–Israel conflict</a> (intermittent)</li> </ul>
<b>Territorial changes</b>	show <b>1948–1967:</b> show <b>Since 1967:</b>

### Belligerents

 **Israel**

 **Palestinians:**

**1948:**

- [Arab Higher Committee](#)
- [All-Palestine Protectorate](#)
- [Army of the Holy War](#)

**1949–1956:**

- [Palestinian fedayeen](#)<sup>[a]</sup>

**1964–2005:**

- [Fatah](#) (1959–2005)<sup>[b]</sup>
- [PLO](#) (1964–2005)<sup>[c]</sup>
- [UNLU](#) (1987–1993)<sup>[d]</sup>
- [Palestinian Authority](#) (1994–2005)<sup>[e]</sup>

**2006–present:**

- [Hamas](#)
- [Palestinian Joint Operations Room](#) (2018–present)<sup>[f]</sup>

**Casualties and losses**

9,901–9,922 killed      84,638–90,824 killed

More than [700,000 Palestinians displaced](#)<sup>[3]</sup> with a further 413,000 Palestinians displaced in the [Six-Day War](#);<sup>[4]</sup> 2,000+ Jews displaced in 1948<sup>[5]</sup>

6,373 Israeli<sup>[6]</sup> and 13,000–16,000 Palestinian deaths in the [1948 Arab–Israeli War](#).<sup>[7]</sup>

654 Israeli<sup>[8]</sup> and 19,085 Palestinian and Lebanese deaths in the [1982 Lebanon War](#) in addition to 800–3,500 in the [Sabra-Shatila massacre](#).<sup>[9]</sup>

1,962 Palestinians<sup>[10]</sup> and 179–200 Israeli deaths<sup>[11]</sup> in the [First Intifada](#).

1,010 Israelis<sup>[12]</sup> and up to 3,354 Palestinian deaths in the [Second Intifada](#).<sup>[12]</sup>

402 Palestinians were killed in the [2006 Gaza–Israel conflict](#).<sup>[13]</sup> 1,116<sup>[14]</sup>–1,417<sup>[15]</sup> Palestinian deaths in the [Gaza War \(2008–2009\)](#).

2,125–2,310 Palestinian deaths in the [2014 Gaza War](#).<sup>[16]</sup> 285 Palestinian and 17 Israeli deaths in the [2021 Israel–Palestine crisis](#).<sup>[17]</sup>

At least 42,509+<sup>[18]</sup> Palestinians and 1,668+ Israelis killed in the [Israel–Hamas war](#) with a further 1,900,000 Palestinians displaced within Gaza<sup>[19]</sup> and 135,000 Israeli evacuees.<sup>[20]</sup> Indirect deaths<sup>[9]</sup> likely to be several times higher than those killed by violence, with estimates for total Palestinian deaths in the [Israel–Hamas war](#) at 186,000<sup>[22]</sup> or 335,500<sup>[h]</sup>

**Israel Gaza War LIVE: Palestinian Opens Fire on Israeli Bus in West Bank**  
 >>> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PIuTzk2BKms> [1:01:40]

The **Israeli–Palestinian conflict** is an ongoing military and political conflict about [land](#) and [self-determination](#) within the territory of the former [Mandatory Palestine](#). Key aspects of the conflict include the [Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip](#), the [status of Jerusalem](#), [Israeli settlements](#), borders, security, water rights, the [permit regime](#), [Palestinian freedom of movement](#), and the [Palestinian right of return](#).

The conflict has its origins in the rise of [Zionism](#) in Europe and the consequent [first](#) arrival of [Jewish settlers](#) to [Ottoman Palestine](#) in 1882. The local Arab population increasingly began to oppose Zionism, primarily out of fear of territorial displacement and dispossession. The Zionist movement garnered the support of an imperial power in the 1917 [Balfour Declaration](#) issued by Britain, which promised to support the creation of a "[Jewish homeland](#)" in [Palestine](#). Following [British occupation](#) of the formerly [Ottoman](#) region during [World War I](#), Mandatory Palestine was established as a [British mandate](#). Increasing Jewish immigration led to tensions between Jews and Arabs which grew into [intercommunal conflict](#). In 1936, an [Arab revolt](#) erupted demanding independence and an end to British support for Zionism, which was suppressed by the British. Eventually tensions led to the [UN](#) adopting a [partition plan](#) in 1947, triggering a [civil war](#).

During the ensuing 1948 Palestine war, more than half of the mandate's predominantly Palestinian Arab population fled or were expelled by Israeli forces. By the end of the war, Israel was established on most of the former mandate's territory, and the Gaza Strip and the West Bank were controlled by Egypt and Jordan respectively. Since the 1967 Six Day War, Israel has been occupying the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, known collectively as the Palestinian territories. Two Palestinian uprisings against Israel and its occupation erupted in 1987 and 2000, the first and second intifadas respectively. Israel's occupation, which is now considered to be the longest military occupation in modern history, has seen it constructing illegal settlements there, creating a system of institutionalized discrimination against Palestinians under its occupation called Israeli apartheid. Israel has drawn international condemnation for violating the human rights of the Palestinians.

The international community, with the exception of the US and Israel, has been in consensus since the 1980s regarding a settlement of the conflict on the basis of a two-state solution along the 1967 borders and a just resolution for Palestinian refugees. The US and Israel have instead preferred bilateral negotiations rather than resolving the conflict on the basis of international law. In recent years, public support for a two-state solution has decreased, with Israeli policy reflecting an interest in maintaining the occupation rather than seeking a permanent resolution to the conflict. In 2007, Israel tightened its blockade of the Gaza Strip and made official its policy of isolating it from the West Bank. Since then, Israel has framed its relationship with Gaza in terms of the laws of war rather than in terms of its status as an occupying power. In a July 2024 ruling, the International Court of Justice rebuffed Israel's stance, determining that the Palestinian territories constitute one political unit and that Israel continues to illegally occupy the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The ICJ also determined that Israeli policies violate the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. Since 2006, Hamas and Israel have fought five wars, the most recent of which began in 2023 and is ongoing.



**Palestinian Arab-Christian-owned newspaper *Falastin*, 18 June 1936, caricatured Zionism as a crocodile, protected by a British officer, telling Palestinian Arabs: "Don't be afraid! I will swallow you peacefully..."**

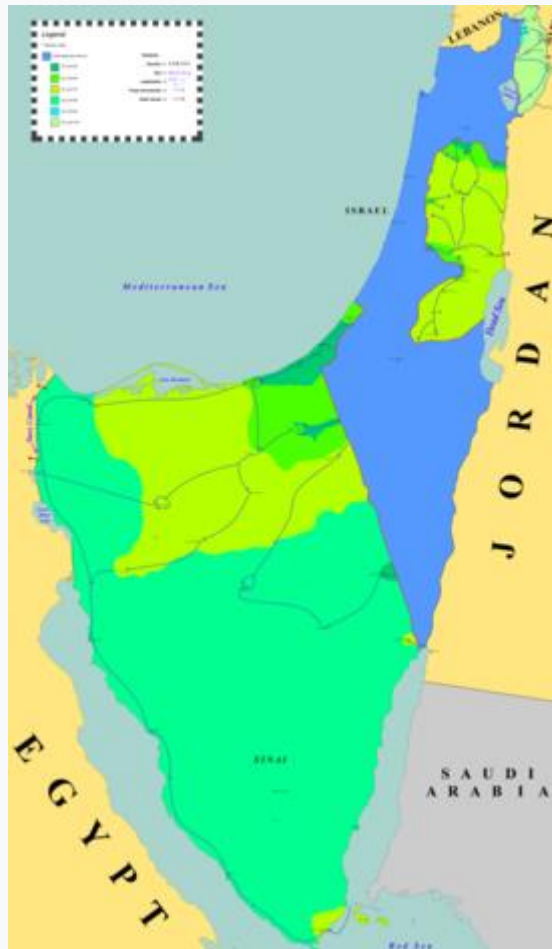
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# Six-Day War

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Six-Day\\_War](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Six-Day_War)

## Six-Day War

Part of the [Arab–Israeli conflict](#)



A map of military movements during the conflict. Israel proper is shown in royal blue and territories occupied by Israel are shown in various shades of green

<b>Date</b>	5–10 June 1967 (6 days)
<b>Location</b>	<a href="#">Middle East</a>
<b>Result</b>	Israeli victory
<b>Territorial changes</b>	Israel occupies a total of 70,000 km <sup>2</sup> (27,000 sq mi) of territory: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The <a href="#">Golan Heights</a> from Syria</li><li>• The <a href="#">West Bank</a> including <a href="#">East Jerusalem</a> from Jordan</li><li>• The <a href="#">Gaza Strip</a> and the <a href="#">Sinai Peninsula</a> from Egypt</li></ul>

Belligerents	
 <a href="#">Israel</a>	 <a href="#">Egypt</a>  <a href="#">Syria</a>  <a href="#">Jordan</a>  <a href="#">Iraq<sup>[1]</sup></a> <b>Minor involvement:</b>  <a href="#">Lebanon</a>
Commanders and leaders	
 <a href="#">Levi Eshkol</a>  <a href="#">Moshe Dayan</a>  <a href="#">Yitzhak Rabin</a>  <a href="#">David Elazar</a>  <a href="#">Uzi Narkiss</a>  <a href="#">Yeshayahu Gavish</a>  <a href="#">Israel Tal</a>  <a href="#">Mordechai Hod</a>  <a href="#">Shlomo Erell</a>  <a href="#">Aharon Yariv</a>  <a href="#">Ezer Weizman</a>  <a href="#">Rehavam Ze'evi</a>	 <a href="#">Gamal Abdel Nasser</a>  <a href="#">Abdel Hakim Amer</a>  <a href="#">Mohamed Fawzi</a>  <a href="#">Abdul Munim Riad</a>  <a href="#">Mohamed Mahmoud</a>  <a href="#">Nureddin al-Atassi</a>  <a href="#">Hafez al-Assad</a>  <a href="#">Ahmed Suidani</a>  <a href="#">Hussein of Jordan</a>  <a href="#">Zaid ibn Shaker</a>  <a href="#">Asad Ghanma</a>  <a href="#">Abdul Rahman Arif</a>
Strength	
<b>Israel:</b> 264,000 total 250–300 combat aircraft 800 tanks	<b>Egypt:</b> 160,000 total 100,000 deployed 420 aircraft 900–950 tanks <b>Syria:</b> 75,000 troops <b>Jordan:</b> 55,000 total 45,000 deployed 270 tanks <b>Iraq:</b> 100 tanks <b>Lebanon:</b> 2 combat aircraft <b>Total:</b> 465,000 total 800 aircraft 2,504 tanks
Casualties and losses	
<b>Israel:</b> 776–983 killed 4,517 wounded 15 captured  400 tanks destroyed <sup>[19]</sup> 46 aircraft destroyed	<b>Egypt:</b> 9,800–15,000 killed or missing 4,338 captured <b>Syria:</b> 1,000–2,500 killed 367–591 captured <b>Jordan:</b> 696–700 killed 2,500 wounded 533 captured <b>Lebanon:</b> 1 aircraft lost

	Hundreds of tanks destroyed 452+ aircraft destroyed
15 <a href="#">UN peacekeepers</a> killed (14 Indian, 1 Brazilian) 20 Israeli civilians killed and 1,000+ Israeli civilians injured in <a href="#">Jerusalem</a> 34 <a href="#">US Navy</a> , <a href="#">Marine</a> , and <a href="#">NSA</a> personnel killed 17 Soviet Marines killed (allegedly) 413,000 Palestinians displaced	

The **Six-Day War**, also known as the **June War**, **1967 Arab-Israeli War** or **Third Arab-Israeli War**, was fought between [Israel](#) and a coalition of [Arab states](#), primarily [Egypt](#), [Syria](#), and [Jordan](#) from 5 to 10 June 1967.

Military hostilities broke out amid poor relations between Israel and its Arab neighbors, which had been observing the [1949 Armistice Agreements](#) signed at the end of the [First Arab-Israeli War](#). In 1956, regional tensions over the [Straits of Tiran](#) (giving access to [Eilat](#), a port on the southeast tip of Israel) escalated in what became known as the [Suez Crisis](#), when Israel invaded Egypt over the [Egyptian closure of maritime passageways to Israeli shipping](#), ultimately resulting in the re-opening of the Straits of Tiran to Israel as well as the deployment of the [United Nations Emergency Force](#) (UNEF) along the [Egypt-Israel border](#). In the months prior to the outbreak of the Six-Day War in June 1967, [tensions again became dangerously heightened](#): Israel reiterated its post-1956 position that another Egyptian closure of the Straits of Tiran to Israeli shipping would be a definite [casus belli](#). In May 1967, Egyptian president [Gamal Abdel Nasser](#) announced that the Straits of Tiran would again be closed to Israeli vessels. He subsequently mobilized the Egyptian military into defensive lines along the border with Israel and ordered the immediate withdrawal of all UNEF personnel.

On 5 June 1967, as the UNEF was in the process of leaving the zone, Israel launched a series of [preemptive](#) airstrikes against Egyptian airfields and other facilities. Egyptian forces were caught by surprise, and nearly all of Egypt's military aerial assets were destroyed, giving Israel [air supremacy](#). Simultaneously, the Israeli military launched a ground offensive into Egypt's [Sinai Peninsula](#) as well as the [Egyptian-occupied Gaza Strip](#). After some initial resistance, Nasser ordered an evacuation of the Sinai Peninsula; by the sixth day of the conflict, [Israel had occupied the entire Sinai Peninsula](#). Jordan, which had entered into a defense pact with Egypt just a week before the war began, did not take on an all-out offensive role against Israel, but launched attacks against Israeli forces to slow Israel's advance. On the fifth day, Syria joined the war by shelling Israeli positions in the north.

Egypt and Jordan agreed to a ceasefire on 8 June, and Syria on 9 June, and it was signed with Israel on 11 June. The Six-Day War resulted in more than 15,000 Arab fatalities, while Israel suffered fewer than 1,000. Alongside the combatant casualties were the deaths of 20 Israeli civilians killed in Arab forces air strikes on Jerusalem, 15 [UN peacekeepers](#) killed by Israeli strikes in the Sinai at the outset of the war, and 34 US personnel killed in the [USS Liberty incident](#) in which Israeli air forces struck a [United States Navy technical research ship](#).

At the time of the cessation of hostilities, Israel had occupied the [Golan Heights](#) from Syria, the [West Bank](#) including [East Jerusalem](#) from Jordan, and the [Sinai Peninsula](#) and the [Gaza Strip](#) from Egypt. The displacement of civilian populations as a result of the Six-Day War would have long-term consequences, as around 280,000 to 325,000 [Palestinians](#) and 100,000 Syrians [fled or were expelled](#) from the West Bank and the Golan Heights, respectively. Nasser resigned in shame after Israel's victory, but was later reinstated following a series of protests across Egypt. In the aftermath of the conflict, [Egypt closed the Suez Canal until 1975](#).

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## Role in the Palestine War and the establishment of Israel

On 17 November 1947, shortly before the outbreak of the 1947-1949 Palestine war, Meir met with [King Abdullah I of Jordan](#). Abdullah I was seen as the only Arab leader willing to ally with a future Israeli state, as he also opposed the [Mufti of Jerusalem](#) and was rivals with other Arab countries. The meeting was cordial and confirmed that Abdullah was uninterested in invading and quietly willing to cooperate in the future.

### First phase of the war



Golda Meir in Haifa, 1947

For most of the war, Meir reluctantly played what she felt was a minor role in Israel's activities. An article published by the Golda Meir institute said "she felt she was being pushed aside to a secondary arena".

However, she played a critical role in fundraising. In January 1948, the Jewish Agency needed to raise funds for the continuing war and the coming Israeli state. The treasurer of the Jewish Agency was convinced that they would not be able to raise more than \$7 to \$8 million from the American Jewish community. Meir raised over \$30 million. Key to her success was an emotional speech she first delivered in Chicago on 22 January. She toured dozens of cities in the United States and returned to Israel on 18 March.

The funds were critical to the success of the war effort and the establishment of Israel; by comparison, the opposing Arab Higher Committee's annual budget was around \$2.25 million, similar to Haganah's annual budget before the war. Ben-Gurion wrote that Meir's role as the "Jewish woman who got the money which made the state possible" would go down in history.

However, upon returning home, she suffered a political setback. The Jewish Agency and National Council Executives excluded her from the 13-member cabinet of the [provisional government of Israel](#), and included her instead in the 37-member People's Council. Ben-Gurion protested this, saying "It is inconceivable that there shall be no adequate woman...it is a moral and political necessity, for the Yishuv, the Jewish world and the Arab world." At one point, he even considered offering her his spot on the cabinet.

On 13 April, she was hospitalized in Tel Aviv due to a suspected heart attack. Ben-Gurion and the political department heads urged her to guard her health and come to Jerusalem as soon as she could. They asked her to be "the mother of this city", and that her "words to 100,000 residents will be a source of blessing and encouragement". However, she felt it was a secondary and temporary role.

Instead, on 6 May, she visited [Haifa](#) after its 22 April [occupation by Hagannah](#). This trip had a significant impact on her. There, she witnessed an elderly Arab woman emerging from a destroyed house, clutching to her few remaining belongings. When the two women made eye contact, they burst into tears. Meir went on to call the [mass expulsion and flight of Arabs](#) before the [1948 Palestine war](#) "dreadful", and likened it to what befell the Jews in Nazi-occupied Europe. She returned to Tel Aviv, and eventually to Jerusalem two weeks before the end of the mandate.

On 10 May, Meir had a second meeting with Abdullah I. She travelled to Amman in secret, disguised as an Arab woman. He proposed that Palestine be absorbed into Jordan, with autonomy granted to majority-Jewish areas. Golda rejected the proposal. It then seemed likely that Abdullah I would invade.

## **Second phase of the war and appointment to Minister Plenipotentiary**

On 14 May 1948, Meir became one of 24 signatories (including two women) of the [Israeli Declaration of Independence](#). She later recalled, "After I signed, I cried. When I studied American history as a schoolgirl and I read about those who signed the [U.S. Declaration of Independence](#), I couldn't imagine these were real people doing something real. And there I was sitting down and signing a declaration of establishment."

A day after independence, the second phase of the war began. Meir also suddenly lost her job and administrative responsibilities, as the Political Department became the provisional Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and her leadership role in Jerusalem was taken over by [Dov Yosef](#).

On 18 May, she embarked on a second and even more successful fundraising tour in which she raised around \$50 million. In total, her fundraising efforts raised around \$90 million, around a third of the cost of the war (\$275 million). During preparations for this trip, she was issued the first Israeli passport. Over the ten weeks that she was gone, Israel was battered by the war and changed drastically.

On 25 June, while still in the United States, Meir was appointed by Sharett, then the Minister of Foreign Affairs, as the minister [plenipotentiary](#) to the [Soviet Union](#), which recently recognized Israel.

Meir was displeased by the offer. She spoke no Russian and feared being lonely in Moscow. She said "At last we have a state. I want to be there. I don't want to go thousands of miles away. Why do I always have to go away?"

Her return to Israel was delayed due to a car crash in which she tore a ligament and fractured a bone. Soviet officials refused to believe she was in hospital and wanted an Israeli envoy as soon as possible. Thus, she ignored doctor's orders to rest and returned to Israel on 29 July. Years later, her leg would frequently pain her.

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{<https://www.loc.gov/item/2019667809/>}

# Golda Meir

## A Political Biography

### Title

- Golda Meir : a political biography

### Summary

- Almost forty years after her death, Golda Meir's image is still highly controversial. Few in Israel and abroad attempted to deal with the complex personality of the woman who led Israel for five critical years. This biography is based on original sources, memoirs and interviews with many personalities. The author who served as spokesman for Golda Meir in 1973-1974 weaves a gripping story of one of the builders and leaders of the State of Israel.

### Names

- Medzini, Meron, author.

### Created / Published

- Boston ; Berlin : De Gruyter, 2017.

### Contents

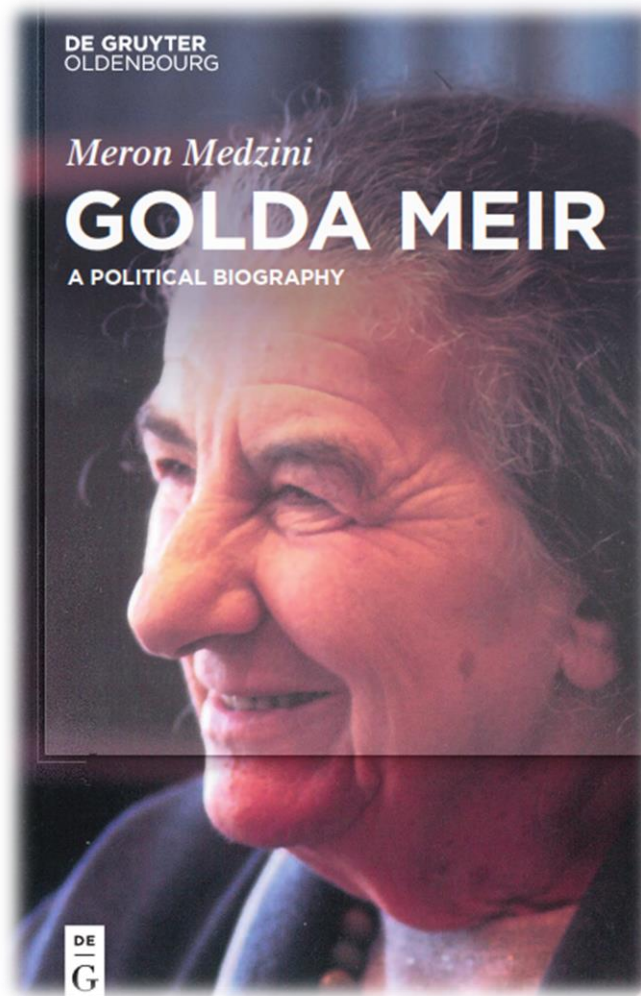
- Origins (1898-1906) -- Milwaukee (1906-1921) -- Merhavia (1921-1925) -- Jerusalem (1925-1928) -- Apprenticeship (1928-1939) -- War and holocaust (1939-1945) --

Towards independence (1945-1948) -- My friends, we are at war (1947-1948) -- Interlude in Moscow (1948-1949) -- The seven good years (1949-1956) -- Ben-Gurion commands (1953-1956) -- The Sinai war (1956-1957) -- Madam Foreign Minister (1957-1965) -- Ben-Gurion must go (1956-1966) -- The secretary general (1966-1968) -- Madam Prime Minister (1969-1973) -- Into the abyss (1973) -- I will never forgive myself (1973) -- Salvage (1973-1974) -- Everything is sinking (1974-1978) - - Our Golda is no more (1978).

### Headings

- - Meir, Golda, --1898-1978
- - Prime ministers--Israel--Biography
- - Israel--Politics and government

## Important Note



Kindly go to the cited Web Link to  
download the Book:

***GOLDA MEIR: A Political Biography***

## Commemorations / Memorials

- Golda Meir House Museum and Education Center, Auraria Campus, 1149 9th Street, Denver CO 80204
- [Golda Meir School](#), [Milwaukee, Wisconsin](#)
- Golda Meir School, in Barra da Tijuca, [Rio de Janeiro, Brazil](#)
- [Golda Meir Library](#), [University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee](#), Wisconsin
- Golda Meir Boulevard, Jerusalem, Israel (and various other streets, neighborhoods and schools in Israel)
- [Golda Meir Center for the Performing Arts](#) – home to the [Israeli Opera](#) and the [Cameri Theater](#), Tel Aviv
- [Bust of Golda Meir](#) at Golda Meir Square, New York City<sup>[105]</sup>
- Golda Meir Center for Political Leadership at [Metropolitan State University of Denver](#)
- Golda Meir House, Denver, Colorado
- Golda Meir House, Newton, Massachusetts
- Golda Meir Street in the city of [Kyiv](#)

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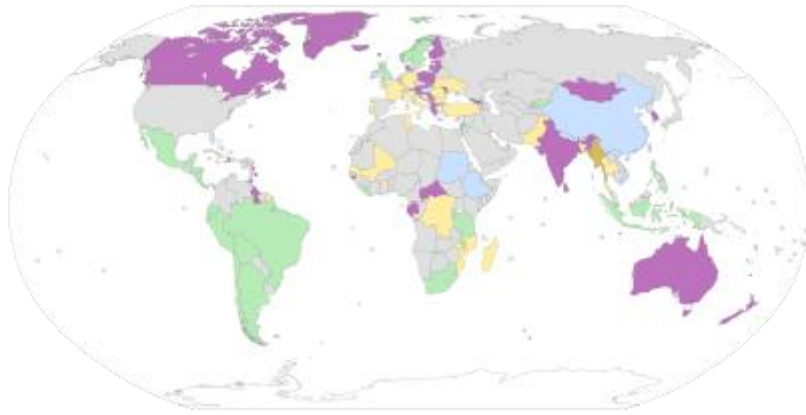
## List of elected and appointed female heads of state and government

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_elected\\_and\\_appointed\\_female\\_heads\\_of\\_state\\_and\\_government](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_elected_and_appointed_female_heads_of_state_and_government)

[Kindly visit the Web Link for complete details]



Map showing countries which currently have women as heads of state or government, counting governors-general but not monarchs.



**Map showing countries which since independence have had women as heads of state or government.  
(Constituent countries of the Netherlands are counted.)**

- Female head of government
- Female head of state
- Female head of state/government (combined)<sup>[a]</sup>
- Female head of state and female head of government
- Female prime minister/state counselor acting as deputy to the combined head of state and government (*de facto* leader)

- Three former sovereign states had a female head of state or government in the 20th century: [East Germany](#), [Tannu Tuva](#) and [Yugoslavia](#).

The following is a list of women who have been elected or appointed head of state or government of their respective countries since the [interwar period](#) (1918-1939). The first list includes female [presidents](#) who are [heads of state](#) and may also be [heads of government](#), as well as female heads of government who are not concurrently head of state, such as [prime ministers](#). The list does not include any presidents of the United States, nor [Queens regnant](#) who are heads of state (but not of government).

[Khertek Anchimaa-Toka](#), of the mostly [unrecognized](#) and now defunct [Tuvan People's Republic](#), is regarded as the "first ever elected woman head of state in the world", although not in multiparty, free and fair elections. The wife of the nation's Supreme Leader, she is the first woman to be elected Chairman of a country. She became the chairwoman of the country's [presidium](#) in 1940.<sup>[1][2]</sup>

The first woman to be elected as prime minister of a country was [Sirimavo Bandaranaike](#) of [Ceylon](#) (present-day [Sri Lanka](#)), when she led her party to victory in the [July 1960 general election](#).

The first woman to serve as president of a country was [Isabel Perón](#) of [Argentina](#), who served as the country's [vice president](#) and succeeded to the presidency in July 1974 upon the death of her husband.

The first woman elected president of a country was [Vigdís Finnbogadóttir](#) of [Iceland](#), who won the [1980 presidential election](#) as well as three

subsequent elections, remaining in office for a total of 16 years, which makes her the longest-serving non-hereditary female head of state in history.

The first democratically elected female prime minister of a [Muslim majority country](#) was [Benazir Bhutto](#) of [Pakistan](#), who led her party to victory in the [1988 general election](#) and later [in 1993](#), making her the [first woman democratically elected leader of any Muslim nation](#). Bhutto was also the first of only two non-hereditary female world leaders who gave birth to a child while serving in office, the other being [Jacinda Ardern](#) of [New Zealand](#).

The longest-tenured female non-hereditary head of government is [Sheikh Hasina](#) of [Bangladesh](#). She served as the country's prime minister from June 1996 to July 2001 and again from January 2009 until August 2024, for a combined total of over 20 years.

The prime ministers of [Equatorial Guinea](#), [Mozambique](#), [Namibia](#), [Peru](#), and [Uganda](#) are included in the [list of elected or appointed female deputy heads of government](#) but not in the [list of elected or appointed female deputy heads of state](#), as they are neither heads of government, nor deputy heads of state due to the existence of the office of [vice president](#) in these countries, whereas the prime ministers of [South Korea](#) and [Sri Lanka](#) (post-1978) are included in both of those lists.

Currently, [Barbados](#) is the only republic in the world where both the serving head of state and head of government are women. [Honduras](#), the [Marshall Islands](#), [Mexico](#), [Peru](#), and [Tanzania](#) are republics where the female President is the combined head of state and government.

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### Some Important Web Links

- 01] <https://www.un.org/unispal/history/>
- 02] <https://www.britannica.com/explore/israeli-palestinian-conflicts>
- 03] <https://www.history.com/news/golda-meir-israel-prime-minister-iron-lady-yom-kippur-war>
- 04] <https://history.state.gov/milestones/1945-1952/arab-israeli-war>
- 05] <https://www.hrw.org/middle-east/north-africa/israel/palestine>
- 06] <https://www.ndtv.com/world-news/explained-a-brief-history-of-israel-and-palestine-understanding-a-decades-old-conflict-6700902>
- 07] <https://www.ajc.org/IsraelConflictTimeline>
- 08] [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Israel%E2%80%933 Hamas\\_war](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Israel%E2%80%933 Hamas_war)
- 09] <https://www.who.int/emergencies/situations/conflict-in-Israel-and-oPt>
- 10] <https://dppa.un.org/en/mission/unsco>



## Golda Meir Award Celebration 2024

Tue, May 7th 2024 at 7:00 PM EST · By NA'AMAT USA

<https://secure.givelively.org/event/na-amat-usa/golda-meir-award-celebration/golda-meir-award-celebration-2024>

*Golda Meir Award  
Celebration*

honoring

**Erika Gold**

### EVENT DETAILS

NA'AMAT USA's Cleveland Council honors Golda Meir's legacy through this annual Award given to a woman of distinction, a woman who gives of her heart, time, and commitment to the Cleveland Jewish community. Mrs. Meir was the National Secretary of NA'AMAT in the 1930s and said, "NA'AMAT is the first and last women's organization for which I ever worked."

Cleveland Council honors Erika Taubner Gold with its 2024 Award. She is most deserving of our Golda Meir Award because of her life of volunteerism, including her service to Temple Israel Ner Tamid, Jewish Family Services Association, Cleveland's Yom HaShoah commemorations, World Federation of Jewish Survivors of the Holocaust, and speaking to thousands of adults and children about the Holocaust.

Erika Taubner Gold was born in 1932 in Budapest, Hungary. In December 1944, she and her mother were put on Nazi trucks, but they escaped and hid with a former housekeeper until liberation. They reunited with her father and immigrated to Cuba in 1948 and to Cleveland 1950.

Erika was surprised to see another kind of persecution in the United States: racism. "It blew my mind that we came to a country that is for liberty and their own people are treated the way they are."

She learned English and graduated from Heights High and Western Reserve University. Erika worked as a medical technologist at Doctors' Hospital, Suburban Hospital, and a private lab at Southgate. She married and raised two children, who in turn have given her four grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

Erika was honored as a CJN Difference Maker in 2015, Cleveland Heights High School Distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame in 2019. She also received both the President's Award at Temple Israel Ner Tamid and named Hero in the City of Beachwood in 2023. She serves on the Board of Temple Israel Ner Tamid as well.

She volunteers with Jewish Family Service Association and Maltz Museum of Jewish Heritage, and helps plan and execute Cleveland's Yom Hashoah commemoration each year, and often speaks to groups in Northeast Ohio to teach about the Holocaust. She is a member and speaker for Kol Israel. She is VP of the NEO chapter of World Federation of Jewish Survivors of the Holocaust and descendants. Erika is an active member of NA'AMAT and NCJW.

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## Golden Golda Awards 2023

<https://domoi.org/golden-golda-awards-2023-en/>

The **GOLDEN GOLDA** award is given to women who have made the most significant contributions to the Zionist movement, the encouragement of repatriation, and the work of Jewish communities in their countries. The award was initiated by Marina Rosenberg-Koritnaya, the head of the Aliya Promotion Department of WZO.

The first award ceremony took place in the USA in 2017, followed by events in different years in Argentina, Brazil, France, and the United Kingdom.

This year's grand celebration was preceded by the meticulous work of the WZO's Department for Aliyah Promotion and a commission that included prominent representatives of American Jewish organizations and communities.

*The laureates of the GOLDEN GOLDA 2023 award are:*

**Galina Goldberg** - General Director of Radio Freedom FM 104.7, the most popular Russian-speaking radio station in New York. Her programs, covering the situation in Israel, are very important for forming a correct picture of what is really happening in the Jewish state.

**Alicia Post** - a well-known public figure and social leader. She has gained wide recognition as a successful manager of social non-profit projects. She is known for her work with the Jewish National Fund and the American Zionist Movement. Alicia actively participates in the Simon Wiesenthal Center's mentorship program and is on the advisory council for international Jewry. Her activities are aimed at strengthening ties between Israel and Jewish communities around the world.

**Rachel Friedland** - a lawyer and public figure, a member of the managing commission of the city of Aventura (Florida). Founder of the Don Soffer High School Foundation Board, created to support educational initiatives and provide scholarships to needy students. Rachel is a board member of the Israeli non-profit organization Beit Issie Shapiro, which provides services and support to people with disabilities and their families.

**Inna Vernikova** - a lawyer, politician, and public figure. A member of the New York City Council from the 48th district. She is a leading voice in the fight against antisemitism in her district. She actively draws public attention to cases of antisemitic attacks and ensures that perpetrators are punished. After identifying cases of antisemitism at the City University of New York's law school, she achieved a reduction in its funding.

**Marina Rosenberg-Koritnaya**, Head of the Department for Aliyah Promotion: "It is difficult to find words to express our gratitude to

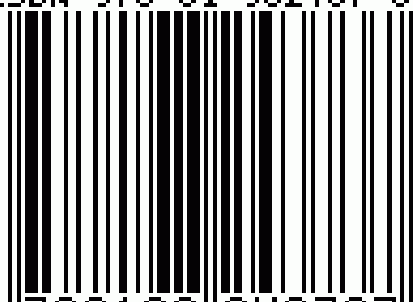
the wonderful women - the laureates of the GOLDEN GOLDA award. The awarding of this prize is our modest tribute, a symbolic gesture of recognition of their real merits to the Zionist movement. I also want to thank everyone who honored this wonderful evening with their presence and, of course, its organizers, who deserve special words of gratitude."







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